

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing instant messaging between ~~In an instant messaging system providing instant message communication between computers;~~ a multi-user computer and an instant messaging device ~~instant messaging method,~~ comprising the steps of:
 receiving first login information from a first user of the multi-user computer by an instant messaging system;
 receiving second login information from a second user of the multi-user computer by the instant messaging system while the first user is logged in; ~~providing plural concurrent instant message user logins on a multi-user computer,~~ at least one of the plural concurrent logins is by a first user and at least one of the plural concurrent logins is by a second user, one of the plural concurrent instant message user logins being a registered buddy of a user of a second computer;
 and
 providing an indication to the instant messaging device ~~to the second computer an indication that the registered buddy is one of plural concurrent instant message user logins on a multi-user computer~~ that the first user and the second user are logged into the instant message system together through the multi-user computer.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the second user is a guest and the second login information does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user ~~one of the plural concurrent instant message user logins on the multi-user computer is a guest login that does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with
visual content from the multi-user computer ~~in which the multi-user computer renders a video~~
~~display concurrently with the plural concurrent instant message user logins on the multi-user~~
~~computer.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:
~~further comprising~~ rendering an instant message from ~~on~~ the multi-user computer over a
portion of ~~a the~~ video display without a visible window surrounding the instant message.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered with a user-
discernible fade in and a user-discernible fade out.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered over a
marginal region of the video display.
7. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered over a user-
selectable portion of the video display.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with
visual content from another source ~~in which the multi-user computer renders a video display~~
~~concurrently with the plural concurrent instant message user logins on the multi-user computer~~
~~and the method further comprises rendering an instant message on the multi-user computer~~
~~concurrently with the video display.~~
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 [[8]] further comprising the step of
transmitting ~~from the multi-user computer~~ one of plural predefined instant messages from the
multi-user computer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising receiving from a wireless remote control device a user indication of the one of plural predefined instant messages transmitted from the multi-user computer.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer usable instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method a for allowing instant messaging between a ~~In an instant messaging system providing instant message communication between computers,~~ multi-user computer and an instant messaging device ~~instant messaging software in computer readable media,~~ comprising the steps of:

receiving first login information from a first user of the multi-user computer by an instant messaging system;

receiving second login information from a second user of the multi-user computer by the instant messaging system while the first user is logged in; and

providing an indication to the instant messaging device that the first user and the second user are logged into the instant message system together through the multi-user computer

~~software for providing plural concurrent instant message user logins on a multi-user computer, at least one of the plural concurrent logins is by a first user and at least one of the plural concurrent logins is by a second user, one of the plural concurrent instant message user logins being a registered buddy of a user of a second computer; and~~

~~software for providing to the second computer an indication that the registered buddy is one of plural concurrent instant message user logins on a multi-user computer.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~[[system]]~~ of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from the multi-user computer ~~further comprising software to render on the multi-user computer a video display concurrently with the plural concurrent instant message user logins on the multi-user computer.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 12 further comprising the step of [[software for]] rendering an instant message on ~~the multi-user computer~~ ~~over~~ a portion of a [[the]] video display without a visible window surrounding the instant message.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered with a user-discernible fade in and a user-discernible fade out.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered over a marginal region of the video display.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered over a user-selectable portion of the video display.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from another source ~~further comprising software to render a video display on the multi-user computer concurrently with the plural concurrent instant message user logins and software for rendering an instant message on the multi-user computer concurrently with the video display.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 17 further comprising [[software]] transmitting ~~from the multi-user computer~~ one of plural predefined instant messages.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 18 in which the one of plural predefined instant messages transmitted from the multi-user computer is selected by a user with a wireless remote control device.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium [[system]] of claim 11 wherein the second user is a guest and the second login information does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user ~~further comprising software to provide one of the plural concurrent instant message user logins on the multi-user computer as a guest login that does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user.~~

21 -29. Cancelled